

Mission Church of Ranchos de Taos  
Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico

HABS No. 36-NM-7 ✓

Taos Co

HABS  
NM  
28-RANTA

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 36  
Utah, Colorado and New Mexico

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
A. Leicester Hyde, District Officer  
Box 902, Santa Fe, N. M.

MISSION CHURCH<sup>1</sup>  
Ranchos de Taos<sup>2</sup>  
Taos County  
New Mexico

Owner: Penitente Order.

Date of Erection: 1772 (?).

Architect and Builders: Franciscan Fathers.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Adobe.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

<sup>1</sup> Hallenbeck, C., in his Spanish Missions of the Old Southwest, page 23, states that this is not a mission church.

<sup>2</sup> Hallenbeck spells this Ranchas de Toas.

MISSION CHURCH OF RANCHOS DE TAOS  
Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico.

It is the understanding among the best informed that this church was built in 1772. Beams removed from the ceiling over the transept in 1933 date circa 1810 by tree ring analysis. This would indicate that during the short span of years between 1772 and 1810 the original roof had been destroyed by fire or that the assumed date of erection is inaccurate. There is a story that the church was burned at this time, but documentary proof is lacking.

An old resident of Ranchos de Taos tells us that the existing main entrance was added about the middle of the 19th century. It is very evident that great square headed doors preceded the present arched doors, and it is probable that the arched windows were added at the same time.

Within the past five years a concrete coping has been added which greatly detracts from the beauty of the Church. In 1916 new vigas and a roof were placed over the sacristy, the wood floor and the stairs to the choir loft are quite modern.

In 1933 new vigas and a new roof were placed over the transept and apse.

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The Church now belongs to the Penitente order  
but is served by a Roman Catholic priest.

References: "Missions and Pueblos of the Old  
Southwest", E. R. Forrest

*A. Leicester Hyde*

A. Leicester Hyde  
District Officer # 36

*Reviewed 1934, H.C.F.*

Addendum to  
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Ranchos de Taos  
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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Ranchos de Taos  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013